

**Statewide Independent Living Council
Meeting Minutes from
October 7th – 8th – 9th, 2008
AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Ft. Pierre, SD**

1:00 PM, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008

Attendees:

Ryan Green
Larry Puthoff
Linda Biffert
Patrick Czerny
Margot Burton
Brad Koneche
Philomine Moran
Jaci Keller *for Marilyn Kinsman*

Grady Kickul, DRS
Denise White, DRS
Alex Gourneau
Sandy Neyhart, DSBVI
Julie Paluch, Interpreter
Katie Petersen, Interpreter
Shelly Pfaff, Staff
Faith Ellis, Staff

Opening Actions:

Chairman Ryan Green called the group to order by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their participation. Introductions followed. Ryan explained that today's key agenda item is SILC Member Orientation.

Grady Kickul also welcomed the group to Fort Pierre. He stressed how important this SILC orientation is, both for the numerous new members but also as a great refresher for existing members.

Grady mentioned how at a recent Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) training they reviewed the online training modules series from the State Rehabilitation Council National Training Center at www.erehab.org, and that these could also be very beneficial to new SILC members, especially in helping to create an appreciation of the historical timeline involved and how far these services have come.

Shelly and Denise then presented throughout the afternoon on:

- Introduction to the Rehabilitation Act
- Chapter 1 – Individuals with significant disabilities
- Chapter 2 – Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind
- Other Independent living related services=
 - Personal Attendant Services
 - Telecommunications Adaptive Devices (TAD) Program
 - Home Modifications Assistive Devices
 - Radio Talking Book Program
 - SD News Telephone Reader Services
- Section 705 – Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
- SILC Bylaws
- Section 704 – State Plan for Independent Living

This time included presentations, as well as time for small group dialogue.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:00 PM.

8:30 AM, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008

Chairman Ryan Green reconvened the meeting, welcomed everyone again, and the group reintroduced themselves. Some conversation followed on yesterday's orientation. Consensus was that the pace was fine, but it might have been a bit of information overload. Grady suggested that maybe a training segment needs to be incorporated into every meeting agenda. Staff will consider changes based on input provided by members.

The meeting continued with Denise reviewing the Development and Implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living. This State Plan will need to be rewritten by next year, so we're already in the information gathering process. Each table was

assigned one of the State Plan Goals to review in detail and to come up with ideas on needed changes or additions. The tables then reported their new ideas to the entire group.

Lunch Break

1:00 PM, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008

Chairman Ryan called the meeting to order again, welcoming Vikki Kierkvliet to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Made, Seconded, and Carried. (MSC)

Approval of Agenda:

Ryan asked for any additions or edits to the agenda. It was asked to add an item to select a SILC representative to be named to the Disability Advocacy Network (Network). **Motion to approve the Agenda as amended – MSC.**

Chairman Ryan directed the group to the added Agenda item. After discussion, **Motion that Margot Burton be the SILC representative to the Network - MSC.**

3:00 – 5:00 PM Public Conversation Time - Several members of the general public joined us this afternoon to share their experiences with independent living services, to express their needs, and to learn more about available services.

Representatives from Western Resources for dis-Abled Independence (WRDI) joined the meeting at this time. They promoted a training they are helping coordinate called,

“Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Guidelines and Architectural Barriers Act (ADA/ABA)” which will be Thursday, November 6th, 2008, at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City. They asked people to please pass on the word to interested parties.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM.

8:30 AM, Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008

The Chairman welcomed the members once more and called the meeting to order. Introductions were done.

We debriefed on the Public Conversation time from the previous afternoon. SILC members shared what they had heard from individuals at their tables. Consensus was that even though the numbers were small, good information was gained and shared.

DRS Director's Reports

Director's Comments - Grady mentioned that Congress recently passed the Mental Health Parity Act, and it is veto proof.

Grady added a quick reminder that the election is right around the corner and we should always strongly encourage people to register to vote. DRS has almost 6,000 people in their “system” that we are in contact with frequently, and they also need to be promoting voting.

The Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) has recently reviewed the threshold dollar amounts, specifically the earned income and the unearned income amounts. There is currently no premium but there are co-pays.

DRS Budget Update - The Division's budget is approximately \$20 million, which is responsible for serving 6,000 consumers annually and maintaining 100 staff in 12 offices statewide. Of that \$10 million:

- Client Services receives \$5 million;
- Independent Living (IL) Case Service receives \$1 million;
- Disability Determination Services receives \$3.3 million (30 staff);
- Assistive Daily Living Services (ADLS) receives \$3.9 million; and
- Telecommunications Services for the Deaf receives \$1.3 million.

This past year the Division came in a little under budget, but two years ago they were significantly over budget. It is all about client flow, and the inability to control or predict the demand for services from year to year. Plus state funds are not allowed to be carried over from one year to the next, even though federal funds can be carried over. DHS is very proud though that there are no waiting lists for any of their programs for the first time in a few years.

For fiscal year 2010, the Division is requesting to expand the ADLS program by 5 consumers, at roughly \$30,000 per person. Most of the programs are requesting level funding other than an inflationary increase for providers. One of the largest culprits of increased spending is the rising cost of travel. Travel budgets have been level funded for several years now, yet actual travel expenses keep going higher. DHS is trying to cut all non-essential staff travel. Travel to maintain client contact and serve consumers in programs will always be 1st priority. Out of state conferences are scrutinized carefully before travel allowances are approved.

CIL Financial Work Group - This group meets regularly to review the cost vs. need issues, and develop a new reimbursement schedule. This workgroup has been making good progress; we've had good active support from all four of our state CILs. We're incorporating a full time study of the actual hours spent in delivery of all services, including the four core services. It is a labor-intensive project, and we're starting to see some incoming data regarding how the CILs' staff hours are being spent in providing services. It's showing that CILs are spending large amounts of time on the four core services. We are also having CILs provide organizational charts, and it's interesting how they are all different from one another. The biggest obstacle overall has simply been that this is a new approach and people are resistant to change. The workgroup feels this is important data and will be reviewing more at the next meeting.

NDEAM - National Disability Employment Awareness Month is coming next month. DRS and the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation support several events and activities around the state to promote to employers the value of hiring qualified employees with disabilities. An added boost to these efforts this year is that the national NDEAM poster features South Dakota's own Mt. Rushmore. It is great exposure for our state. This year's theme is, *"America's People... America's Talent... America's Strength!"*

The listing of statewide event details was reviewed by Grady (see attached). The BVR/Public Awareness Committee reviews the community's proposals and funding requests and then provides their funding recommendations to the Board for their review and action.

DSBVI Director's Report:

Older Blind Report - Gaye Mattke introduced Sandy Neyhart to give this report. Sandy reported that for the first time in quite awhile they are fully staffed for all services statewide. Their latest two additions to staff are: Jennifer Guether, serving the greater Pierre/Central Region with a dual Rehabilitation Counselor/Teacher caseload, and Erin Swenson, Rehabilitation Teacher serving the Sioux Falls/Southeast Region.

Another change is in the VII-B reporting instrument, which collects data regarding percentages of clients meeting specific performance measures, such as the ability to move or travel more safely (1.1), having gains in customary life activities (1.2), functional abilities previously lost (1.3), and more confident control (1.4). This is the first year to be testing out these percentage benchmarks.

Sandy also reported that the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Program has 125 units on lease or loan to older blind consumers. SBVI has partnered with DakotaLink, and the program is going well. It was added that the maintenance policy is what helps make this program run smoothly - units get fixed quickly and they offer on-going cleaning. This program has a \$50 deposit on the machine, and then a \$30 monthly fee for those who do not meet economic need criteria. Sandy explained that between 2/3rd to 3/4th of those accessing the program are not required to pay the monthly fee since they meet economic need criteria. There are approximately 20 people on a waiting list right now, but that number fluctuates quickly for various reasons. Gaye added that when the team for "Capitol for a Day" visits communities, a CCTV unit is displayed at these events.

Board/Division Update - Gaye reported the Focus On Success (FOS) Conference was held last week. FOS was a joint effort sponsored by several agencies and consumer organizations of

the blind. The vendor fair was a huge success and the conference had a good turn out of participants with a mix of people of all ages. She added a thank you to the folks around the table who had participated.

SDBVI Budget Update - Gaye explained that the Division has only asked for a modest budget increase for the next fiscal year. They're also monitoring travel expenses and trying to better coordinate travel.

Gaye reminded us that the next Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired meeting is in Pierre November 14th. Their new Chairman is Dave Miller from Sioux Falls. The Board of SBVI reinstated the Assistive Technology Advisory Committee to advise on assistive technology for consumers.

Gaye shared that the Braille and Talking Books Division at the State Library is going to lose Dan Boyd to retirement. So there will be an opening in that position.

A SILC member pointed out that the front page of today's (Oct. 9th) Pierre Capitol Journal included an article regarding how State Attorney General Larry Long says that it is "ok" for local and state boards, councils, etc. to take a position on issues, but not to take a position on specific candidates. Shelly agreed to investigate this and report back.

DRS IL Report:

Denise explained that she did not have much else to report because Grady had done a great job covering it all already.

Operationalizing SILC Report - Shelly, Denise, and Alex all recently attended this conference in Alexandria, VA. Shelly reported that overall it went quite good. There were several informational presentations. Approximately 20-25 states were

represented, so the group was diverse and provided wonderful networking opportunities. She also reported that there were times when some state delegate groups got off subject, addressing issues they were having with RSA. We expect to receive RSA responses relating to these conversations at some point in the future.

Denise said that she was impressed with the passion that these people had towards their jobs, but these conversations also highlighted how good our communication is in SD between agencies and the state people compared to those in some other states.

Grady explained that there is some fear that the future of Title 7 is in danger. He sent three SD representatives to this conference in the hopes of receiving new guidance – clarifying issues currently separating various parties in the IL system. He feels SD was represented well, and he's certain RSA has an understanding of our concerns over the current status of IL relationship at the federal/state levels.

Shelly added that the general message she got from the conference is that, yes, there will be changes, but she believes these changes will just call for us to approach services in a different way, not cause us to not be able to deliver the services we believe are needed by those we serve.

DSS Update:

Due to her schedule, Jaci Keller, DSS, was not able to stay all afternoon. She had supplied a written report to Shelly to share on her behalf.

There is a new service delivery option for consumers with brain injuries. An eight-bed facility opened recently in Irene, SD. It is going really well and is almost at full capacity.

A long-term care study of the elderly is being done. Three different sub-committees are working on having reports in by November 1st, 2008.

SDHDA Update:

SD Housing Development Authority is having their 18th Annual Housing Conference, Nov. 17th through 19th at the Pierre Ramkota RiverCentre. Their theme this year is, "A Strong Foundation". Cost is \$150 prior to November 4th, and \$175 after November 4th. The keynote speaker is, Christine Cashen, who will humorously challenge participants to have an, "Extreme Humor Makeover" to lower your stress. Many other pertinent topics will be covered. For more details contact Lisa Larson at 773-4132, or lisal@sdha.org.

Other items:

Shelly promoted the Mike Walling Benefits Trainings that are coming up in Sioux Falls, Oct. 20th and 21st, Chamberlain on Oct. 22nd, and in Rapid City Oct. 23rd and 24th. Flyers were available to take and share with others.

Ryan promoted the November 6th Training on the ADA Guidelines on Architectural Barriers Act that will be at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, in Rapid City. Cost is \$75, and it is available to take for 8 CEU or PDH credits. For more information, call Shelly Shock at 605-718-1930, or shelly@wrldi.org.

Consensus was that the SILC should add to the agenda CIL Directors Reports and invite directors to either report in person or to submit a written report to staff to be shared on their behalf.

Shelly and Denise will work to arrange a facilitator to attend our next meeting when we discuss our mission statement and bylaws.

Next Meeting Date:

The Governor's Budget Address is Tuesday, December 2nd. Consensus was to aim for setting Wednesday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 4th in Sioux Falls. Staff will notify everyone when details are finalized.

The Chairman thanked everyone for his/her time. **Motion to adjourn - MSC.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.